INFORMATION LETTER

Not for Publication — NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION — For Members Only

No. 1257 — Washington, D. C. — October 22, 1949

Canners Urged by McGovern To Oppose Statism Campaigns

Florida canners were exhorted yesterday to oppose the campaigns of the "regimentators" who threaten this country's free economy.

In a principal address at the 18th annual meeting of the Florida Canners Association in Daytona Beach, N.C.A. President John F. McGovern told the owners and operators of the state's canning plants that "unless we do something we will find ourselves so far engulfed in a regimented economy that our country will eventually join the long list of socialist states, which ultimately leads to a communist state.

"Communists, socialists, fellow travelers and that dangerous group

(Please turn to page 320)

N.C.A.-C.M.I. Nutrition Study Of Warehouse Temperatures

One phase of the N.C.A.-C.M.I. nutrition program has concerned itself with the effect of storage times and temperatures on the retention of vitamins in canned foods. The fundamental phase of this study involved experimental storage at controlled uniform temperatures, necessary for any reliable estimate of the relative effect of various temperatures. This was logically extended into other studies of vitamin retention in canned foods stored under commercial conditions at a number of points throughout the country, a day-by-day record of temperature being kept throughout the storage period. *(Please turn to page 322)*

Labeling Program Recognized

A new textbook, *The Buyer's Guide*, in the field of consumer education devotes two four-page sections to canned foods. One section is entitled "Canned Meat, Poultry, Fish and Sea Food" and the other, "Canned Fruits and Vegetables."

With this issue of the INFORMATION LETTER, canners will receive a copy of the latter. Copies of the other section are being mailed separately to meat, poultry, fish and sea food canners. *(Please turn to page 320)*

First Major Revision in Wage-Hour Law In 11 Years Sent to President

A comprehensive revision of the wage-hour law, raising the statutory minimum wage to 75 cents an hour and extending minimum wage coverage to employees engaged in the canning of fish and shellfish, was passed by the House and Senate on October 18 and sent to the President.

The 75-cent minimum wage will be effective 90 days after the President signs the bill into law.

Exemptions from overtime presently authorized for canners of fruits and vegetables under Sections 7(b)(3) and 7(c) of existing law and the total wage-hour exemption for operations within the "area of production," under Section 13(a)(10), remain unchanged.

This is the first major revision of the Fair Labor Standards Act since its enactment in 1938. Although efforts to extend coverage further may be expected next year, it is to be noted that after 11 years of operation under the original act, the legislative history written in this Congressional action affirms the need for existing exemptions for fruit and vegetable canners.

Provisions of H. R. 5856 specifically relating to canning industry exemptions are on page 321. An analysis of its provisions with respect to applicability, regular rate of pay, and liability will be published in the INFORMATION LETTER at a later date.

Early Return of Convention Reservation Blanks Requested

Reservation forms for rooms at the 1950 Convention were mailed to N.C.A. members last week with the request that they be filled out promptly and returned to R. F. Alexander, National Canners Association, 1739 H St., N. W., Washington 6, D. C., who again is handling the detail of assigning rooms.

Accompanying the blank forms in last week's mailing was a copy of the tentative day-by-day schedule of events planned for the two Convention periods—January 24 to 27, known as the National Food Sales Conference, and January 28-31, the Food Congress on Production. This schedule appears on page 320 of this issue of the INFORMATION LETTER.

In his letter accompanying the mailing of room reservation forms Secretary Campbell pointed out that the 1950 Convention again brings together canners, brokers, buyers and suppliers at the same time and place in fulfillment of the express wishes of the N.C.A.

membership but that in order to accomplish this and still give everyone good rooms, it was necessary to make a number of concessions. The housing situation accordingly will be very acute and it is earnestly requested that each member do his part to help relieve the situation by (1) utilizing double rooms for double occupancy and (2) reducing the number of requests for parlors and single rooms.

The N.C.A. has been allotted the Traymore, Shelburne, Ritz-Carlton and Jefferson hotels for the duration of the Convention—January 24 to 31—and in addition will have the use of the Dennis and Marlborough-Blenheim hotels during the production period from hotel checkout time January 27 through January 31.

As in the past, the reservations for members will be made by room numbers, the Association advising the hotel of the room numbers assigned to the N.C.A. member, together with their arrival and departure dates, and sending duplicate of such notice to the member, who will then receive confirmation direct from the hotel.

McGovern at Florida

(Concluded from page 319)

of self-styled liberals are continuously vociferous," Mr. McGovern stated. "They exaggerate the vices and belittle the virtues of a free economy.

"The evil which has happened and which must be overcome is that by reason of the apathy of ourselves and the aggressiveness of the regimentors a great segment of our own citizens have been confused, misinformed, and misled," he continued.

"The job ahead is to recapture the American mind, to oppose misrepresentation with facts, idealistic failures with evidence of proven superiority and success. A more active opposition to the aggressive campaigns of these champions of the socialistic state is the obligation of every citizen who believes in a free economy. That includes canners as well as teachers, Congressmen, or Senators," he said.

What has happened, Mr. McGovern asserted, is that instead of encouragement and support from the Government in recognition of its importance as an instrument of state policy, "business is being used as a whipping boy."

Through the ability of American business to produce, it is hoped to save much of the world from communism, Mr. McGovern continued. But, he said, "every disputed practice is labeled as a sin, and a law is considered to give government further authority to regiment and regulate.

"When we do legislate in such matters we invariably use such loose terms as to authorize political appointees not answerable to us and obviously unschooled to do such things and promulgate such regulations as to him seem necessary.

"Canners have a responsibility in this national obligation to get our country back on the beam. Our part should be played by a closer and more intimate, fair and friendly intercourse with our working force. With a more courageous and forthright participation in democratic government, by keeping better informed on the political issues and activities, and letting our elected representatives know of our opinions."

A press release citing these pertinent remarks by Mr. McGovern was sent by the N.C.A. to 34 dailies and 41 weeklies and bi-weeklies in Florida, 33 canning trade papers, regional offices of the national newspaper wire services in Jacksonville, Miami, and Washington, and to 39 radio stations in Florida. Copies of the release and the full text of Mr. McGovern's address also were made available to the press covering the Florida meeting.

THE 1950 CONVENTION

(Details Announced to Date; Subject to Revision)

Program details for the 1950 Conventions are still being arranged by the three sponsoring associations. As they are finalized, they will be announced and added to this schedule of principal events.

National Food Sales Conference

January 24-27

(Jointly sponsored by N.C.A. and N.F.B.A.)

Jan. 22—Registration of National Food Brokers Association
Jan. 23—Business meetings of N.F.B.A.
Jan. 24-27—Sales meetings—brokers, buyers, and sellers
Jan. 26—Meetings of N.C.A. Administrative Council and Committees
Jan. 26—State Secretaries' Dinner
Jan. 27—Meetings of N.C.A. Board of Directors
Jan. 27—Young Guard Banquet
Jan. 27—Opening of Canning Machinery and Supplies Exhibit

Food Congress on Production

January 28-31

(Jointly sponsored by N.C.A. and C.M.&S.A.)

Jan. 28-30—Canning Machinery and Supplies Exhibit
Jan. 28—Opening General Session of N.C.A.
Jan. 28—N.C.A. Laboratory and Raw Products Conference
Jan. 28—N.C.A. Fisheries Conference
Jan. 28—C.M.&S.A. Dinner Dance
Jan. 29—N.C.A. Raw Products Conference
Jan. 29—Closing General Session of N.C.A.
Jan. 29—Old Guard Dinner
Jan. 29—Special Musical Entertainment by C.M.&S.A.

Labeling Program Recognized

(Concluded from page 319)

The complete book was written and is sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals and is published by the Gregg Publishing Company, Division of the McGraw-Hill Book Company.

The "Canned Meat, Poultry, Fish and Sea Food" section discusses the canning process, nutritive values in general, and the basic laws which govern production. It lists and describes briefly a number of the major items in these classifications and discusses their labeling.

The "Canned Fruits and Vegetables" section recognizes the continued efforts of the N.C.A., in cooperation with distributors, to improve canned food labels, and devotes nearly half of its space to an explanation and interpretation of the standardized descriptive labeling terms which the Association fosters for voluntary use.

CONGRESS

Delivered Pricing

Although conferees on the delivered pricing bill, S. 1008, have reached agreement, final Congressional approval of this legislation has been postponed until January.

As amended and passed by the Senate and House in midsummer, S. 1008 was intended to clarify the legal rules controlling delivered price selling and freight absorption.

Conferees reached an agreement last weekend, and the House, after considerable debate, adopted the conference report. The Senate, however, voted on October 18 to postpone further consideration of the conference report until January 20.

An analysis of the bill as reported by the conferees will be published in the INFORMATION LETTER at a later date.

Price Support Program

Section 32 funds will be devoted "principally" to the support of perishable fruits and vegetables, under terms of the compromise farm bill approved by Congress on October 19.

The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized, under H. R. 5345, to support the prices of these commodities at from zero to 90 percent of parity whether applicable marketing quotas or marketing agreements are in effect or not.

Supports for perishables would be provided only after consideration of the availability of funds and of other factors (see INFORMATION LETTER of September 3, page 291).

These provisions of the farm bill will become totally effective January 1, 1950.

Food and Drug Imports

The Senate on October 11 passed and sent to the President H. R. 160, a bill to provide specific statutory authority for relabeling imported goods which do not comply with requirements of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. The Senate agreed to omit amendments which it had added to the bill when it first passed H. R. 160 on August 27. As sent to the President, H. R. 160 is exactly as introduced (see INFORMATION LETTER of June 18, page 236).

H. R. 160 was approved by the President on October 18 as P. L. 360.

Wage-Hour Amendments Relating to Canning Exemptions

Following are provisions of H. R. 5856, as approved by the House and Senate on October 18, prescribing canning industry exemptions under the wage-hour law:

Maximum Hours

Section 7(b)(3) is left unchanged from the present Act.

Section 7(c) is left unchanged from the present Act.

Exemptions

Section 13(a)(5) is amended to read as follows:

"any employee employed in the catching, taking, harvesting, cultivating, or farming of any kind of fish, shellfish, crustacea, sponges, seaweeds, or other aquatic forms of animal and vegetable life, including the going to and returning from work and including employment in the loading, unloading, or packing of such products for shipment or in propagating, processing (other than canning), marketing, freezing, curing, storing, or distributing the above products or byproducts thereof;"

Section 13(a)(10) is left unchanged from the present Act.

Section 13(b) is amended by the addition of subsection 4, as follows:

"any employee employed in the canning of any kind of fish, shellfish, or aquatic forms of animal or vegetable life, or any byproduct thereof;"

Conferees' Statement

The statement filed by the conferees explains the changes from present law as follows:

"The House bill contained a 14-workweek exemption from the overtime provisions of section 7 of the act for any industry engaged in the first processing or canning of fish in the raw or natural state. The Senate amendment had no comparable provision. The House bill continued the exemption contained in existing law with respect to fish, shellfish, etc., with the exception that the processing and canning of the products and byproducts specified in the exemption would not have applied to fish. The Senate amendment continued the exemption contained in existing law. The conference agreement (a) strikes out the 14-workweek exemption contained in the House bill; (b) continues the exemption contained in section 13(a)(5) of the present law with the exception of canning; and (c) transfers the canning exemption from section 13(a)(5) of the act to section 13(b), which has the effect of exempting the canning of any kind of fish, shellfish, or other aquatic forms of animal or vegetable life, or any byproduct thereof, from the overtime provisions of the act but not from the minimum wage requirements. Under the conference agreement 'canning' means hermetically sealing and sterilizing or pasteurizing and has reference to a process involving the performance of such operations. It also means other operations performed in connection therewith such as necessary preparatory operations performed on the products before they are placed in bottles, cans, or other containers to be hermetically sealed, as well as the actual placing of the commodities in such containers. Also included are subsequent operations such as the labeling of the cans or other containers and the placing of the sealed containers in cases or boxes whether such subsequent operations are performed as a part of an uninterrupted or interrupted process. It does not include the placing of such products or byproducts thereof in cans or other containers that are not hermetically sealed as such an operation is 'processing' as distinguished from 'canning' and comes within the complete exemption contained in section 13(a)."

Investigation of Corn Borer

"A full and complete study and investigation of current infestations by the European corn borer" by the Senate Committee on Agriculture was authorized under S. Res. 158, approved by the Senate on October 13. The Committee or a subcommittee is directed to conduct the investigation and report the results of its study and its recommendations.

MEETINGS

Special Corn Borer Meeting

The program for the special corn borer meeting to be held in Chicago on November 10 and 11 under the supervision of the N.C.A. Raw Products Bureau will include informal discussions on chemical applications, types of insecticides, methods of application and results of control programs used during the past season. This information will bring canners and their technical field and laboratory personnel up-to-date on results achieved this year and it is hoped that the formulation of more effective and practical field control programs for next year may also be possible at this meeting. Canners and experiment station personnel will participate in the program.

The meeting will be held at the Stevens Hotel and room reservations may be made directly with the hotel.

PERSONNEL

Florida Canners Association

The Florida Canners Association elected the following officers at the association's annual meeting:

President—C. Howard Sweatt, Besco Products Co., Orlando; first vice president—J. Logan Bloodworth, Cherokee Products Co., Fort Pierce; second vice president—George Gooding, California Packing Corp., Tampa; treasurer—Marvin Walker, Florida Citrus Canners Cooperative, Lake Wales; and executive secretary—C. C. Rathbun, Tampa (reelected).

Texas Chili Canners Assn.

The Texas Chili Canners Association has elected the following officers:

President—W. F. Gohlke, Walker's Austex Chili Company, Austin; vice president and treasurer—Fred Catterall, Walker's Austex Chili Company, Austin; and secretary—Fred C. Slauson, Wolf Brand Products, Corsicana.

National Pickle Packers Assn.

The National Pickle Packers Association elected the following officers at its annual meeting held October 7:

President—Leon S. Glaser, of Glaser, Crandell Co., Chicago; vice president—James M. Irwin, The H. W. Madison Co., Cleveland; treasurer—Earl G. Van Holten, of J. G. Van Holten and Son, Milwaukee; secretary—Edward T. Miller, Oak Park, Ill. (reelected).

California Fish Canners Assn.

The California Fish Canners Association, Inc., elected the following officers recently at the association's annual meeting:

President—John V. Morris, French Sardine Co., Terminal Island; vice president—James B. Lane, Westgate Sea Products Co., San Diego; executive vice president and general manager—R. H. Beaton, Terminal Island (reelected); and secretary-treasurer—Charles A. Winkler, Terminal Island (reelected).

National Assn. of Food Chains

The National Association of Food Chains elected the following officers last weekend at the association's annual meeting:

Chairman—Lansing P. Shield, The Grand Union Co., New York City (reelected); president—John A. Logan, Washington, D. C. (reelected); vice presidents—Myer Marcus, Food Fair Stores, Inc., Philadelphia, J. C. Daniel, Daniel Grocery Co., Murphysboro, Ill., and W. T. Triplett, Columbia Food Co., Portland, Ore.; secretary—A. D. Davis, Winn & Lovett Grocery Co., Jacksonville, Fla. (reelected); and treasurer—T. J. Conway, The Fisher Brothers Co., Cleveland (reelected).

Warehouse Temperature Studies

(Concluded from page 319)

A third part of this study was directed toward an appraisal of warehouse temperatures likely to be encountered in various parts of the United States. The results have been published in the September number of the journal *Food Technology* in a paper, "Some Studies of Commercial Warehouse Temperatures with Reference to the Stability of Vitamins in Canned Foods," by K. H. Monroe, K. W. Brighton, and G. H. Bendix.

This paper, the twenty-eighth in the series of papers issuing from the nutrition project, deals with prevailing temperatures in 79 warehouses throughout the country. Data were collected over a two-year period and are presented to show average warehouse temperatures by the month. In addition, graphs show the relationship between the inside temperatures of stored cans and temperatures inside and outside the warehouses.

The results indicate that even in the hottest parts of the United States yearly average temperatures of stored cans do not reach 80° F. At the same time, the correlated studies described earlier show that elevation of temperature has a more marked effect on vitamin losses than does extension of time of storage. It appears, therefore, that there are real benefits to be obtained by keeping the storage temperature down. One means of doing this would be to make full use of cooler night air to reduce the average inside temperatures.

Reprints of this article may be obtained on request from the Washington Research Laboratory.

PUBLICITY

Parade Features Canned Fruits

A recipe calling for the use of canned fruits in the preparation of "Fruit Betty Dessert" is a feature of the food section of the October 9 issue of *Parade*.

The recipe calls for either fruit cocktail, peaches, apricots, or cherries in an easy-to-prepare dessert which today is much in demand by homemakers.

A large photograph showing the finished dessert is captioned:

"Luscious is the word for this fine, baked dessert of canned fruit. It is enriched with a topping that features creamy, crunchy Brazil nuts, grated orange peel."

In addition, three smaller photographs show steps in preparing the food.

Parade is a Sunday supplement distributed nationally to daily newspapers.

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